

REMARKS

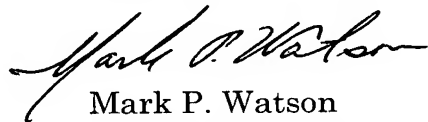
Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 has been amended to depend from Claim 22, as correctly suggested by the Examiner. Claims 6 and 16 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-21 as unpatentable over the references cited is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, the subject matter of allowable Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and the subject matter of allowable Claim 12 has been incorporated into independent Claim 11. Claims 2, 12, and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 22 and 23 were allowed and all remaining claims depend, or have been amended to depend from Claims 1 or 11, which are now in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark P. Watson
Registration No. 31,448

Please address all correspondence to:

Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
150 River Oaks Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95134
Phone: (408) 952-6000
Facsimile: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

Date: September 20, 2005